

OU flies with politically correct pigeon solution

By RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Forget about declining state aid and rising tuition, open committee meetings and an office of minority affairs. Oakland University has a real problem now; 100 pigeons are roosting on the roof of Dodge Hall.

It seems that the area underneath a refrigerated room on the Dodge roof makes as fine a home as a pigeon could hope to find.

"You'd be surprised at the offers we've had here (to get rid of them)," said Frank Giblin, associate professor of biological science. "Some members of the National Rifle Association wanted to sit out in the parking lot and shoot them."

There has also been talk about poisoning the pigeons, Giblin said, but that was nixed when a lot of folks complained about cruelty to birds.

■ **'We're not killing pigeons. I've had enough pigeon publicity. I'm pigeoned out.'**

*Albert Norheden
OU landscape architect*

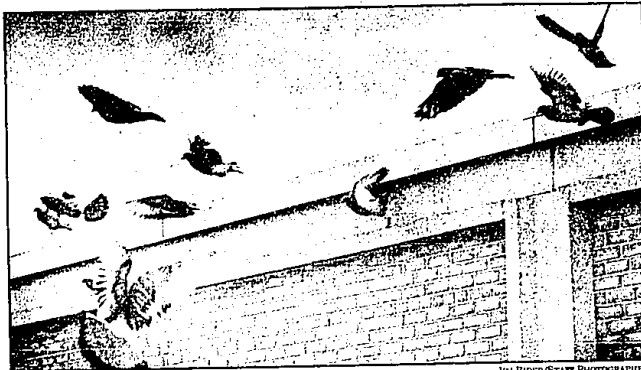
OU landscape architect Albert Norheden said students who are members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals threatened to picket the pigeons killers, then another group called Putting People First said it would picket the picketers.

"We're not killing pigeons," Norheden said. "I've had enough pigeon publicity. I'm pigeoned out."

Instead, the powers that be have concluded that fencing the pigeons out of their home is the best solution. In the spring, Norheden said, a fence will be attached to the girders that support the refrigerated room, barring the flock from its abode.

The pigeons have nested there for 10 years, Giblin said, and made a mess (to put it politely) that is probably responsible for

See PIGEON, 9A



JIM RUDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fly away home: Pigeons shooed from the roof of Dodge Hall make a beeline for the library roof, an interim perch.

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